



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FLING DATE	FIRST NAME OF APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO
08/649 419	05/16/96	RHODES	6 4830-12-12

LM32/0729

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EXAMINER
COLINDA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2721	27

DATE MAILED: 01-29-98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 7/17/98
 The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-19.

The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM the "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____

including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings.
The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 25

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Examiner's Amendment/Comment

Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Art Unit: 2721

1. Claims 2-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of the record fail to teach or suggest singly and/or in combination a method for surveying distribution of proprietary empirical data sets such as audio, image, or video data on computer sites accessible via the Internet which provides for automatically downloading data, including empirical data sets, from a plurality of computer sites over the Internet for each of a plurality of empirical data sets obtained by the downloading operation, automatically screening same to identify the potential presence of identification data steganographically embedded therein for each of a plurality of empirical data sets screened by the screening operation, discerning identification data, if any, steganographically encoded therein and generating a report identifying steganographically encoded empirical data sets identified by the foregoing steps, and the site from which each was downloaded wherein there is calibration data steganographically encoded within at least one empirical data set, the calibration data having one or more known properties facilitating identification thereof during the discerning step, the method including identifying the calibration data within the empirical data set and using data obtained thereby to aid in discerning the identification data from the empirical data set, wherein the empirical data set has been corrupted since being encoded the corruption including a process selected from the group consisting of misregistration and scaling of the empirical set the method further including the data-to compensate for the corruption wherein the identification data can nonetheless be recovered from the empirical data set notwithstanding the corruption as prescribed for in the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (703) 305-4774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5397.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

jlc
July 23, 1998